

# National Congress Bulletin



JUNE-JULY 1959 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 26, NO. 10

Dear P.T.A. President:

SINCE LAST I wrote you, the annual convention of the National Congress has come and gone. Some of you who are reading these words were there, and I know you would urge other local presidents to attend a national convention if possible. For it is truly a wonderful experience—stimulating, helpful, and even fun. I almost hesitated to say “fun,” because one of the convention speakers said he thought Americans put too much emphasis on having fun. But if he could have stayed beyond his “flying in and flying out” visit, I’m sure he would have found the delightful responsive spirit of the delegates both in and out of meetings a profitable kind of fun that he could approve.

Next May we shall meet in the historic city of Philadelphia, where the memorable spots in our early national development are clustered in an area that can be covered by walking. I know because I have done it. We shall try to have the program even better than this year’s, which is aiming high, as you know if you were at Denver.



» Pictured on the platform at a general meeting during the National Congress convention in Denver are six pilots who, through the years, have guided the National Congress ship with wisdom and devotion. In the center is Mrs. Parker, and with her are five past presidents: (from left, standing) Mrs. John E. Hayes, Mrs. William Kletzer, and Mrs. Rollin Brown; (from left, seated) Mrs. Newton P. Leonard and Mrs. William A. Hastings.

» Now, during the summer, you are deciding upon your committees and appointing chairmen. Soon you will be meeting with your executive committee to plan for next year. I should like to suggest two steps that I think will help to assure productive planning.

» The first is to have a period of training, in which you and your executive committee study together the Objects and policies of the P.T.A. and consider the excellent suggestions in the “Parent-Teacher Manual” on program planning and membership enrollment. You will also want to point up the information and guidance that chairmen will find in the “Manual.” And the “Manual” serves also as a guide to the many other P.T.A. publications that help us do effective work.

» The second step is to study our newest publication, “Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation’s Greatness,” which sets forth the Action Program of the National Congress. In this handsome booklet you’ll find more ideas for programs and projects than your P.T.A. can use in a decade. It also contains carefully prepared sections on the needs of children, youth, and adults, and these needs, of course, are the reasons for having programs, projects, and activities. We hope you’ll be as delighted with the Action Program as were the delegates at the Denver convention.

» At this moment I hope you share with me the feeling of belonging to a tremendous, active, useful organization. I hope you sense, too, the deep dedication of thousands upon thousands of other parent-teacher leaders, who, like you, are devoted to a cause: to strengthen homes, increase the effectiveness of our schools, or improve our communities. Even as I write I think of P.T.A. activities from my own experience that contributed to one or more of these objectives. The P.T.A. does make a difference—an enormous difference to our children and their world.

» So as you begin or continue your P.T.A. work this year, may you see it as a means whereby you, your own abilities extended by the talents of your members, can actually make a variety of contributions to a good life for all that circle of children for which your school is the center.

» My best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Paula C. Parker*

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



## AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:

# Strolling Through Exhibition Hall

**W**HETHER or not you went to the national convention in Denver last May, you'll enjoy strolling with us, in retrospect, among the beautiful and ingenious exhibits set up in the Municipal Auditorium by state congresses and national standing committees. Pause with us for a moment here and there, perhaps to watch the dancing figures in the **Kentucky** exhibit or to press the button that made **New Jersey's** map light up.

At this convention, itself such a magnificent example of cooperation, you saw many evidences of fine cooperative endeavor. **Tennessee's** road map depicted the "Congress Caravan" that brings the Tennessee Congress to local units. And the **South Dakota** exhibit showed an array of standing figures of P.T.A. leaders, joining forces in effective program planning. But most of all you were impressed by the many ways in which state congresses and local units all over the country, guided by National Congress committees, carry out the Objects of our organization.

The *Committee on Legislation*, for instance, pictured the dome of the Capitol in Washington with a rocket of letters and telegrams speeding toward it. The caption: "Congress listens to letters from you! Write into orbit!" Numerous state congresses followed suit by reporting in pictorial fashion legislation victories won during the year. **Kansas**, for instance, displayed a striking poster showing the "P.T.A. Legislation Box Score" within the state.

The *Membership Committee* poster reminded us of our "Destination: Membership Moon." No less arresting was **Louisiana's** "Membership Tree," the leaves showing the membership of its individual P.T.A.'s.

### TAKING A TURN WITH N.P.T.

● Perhaps you were among the visitors who paused at the *National Parent-Teacher* booth to read the slogans on the slowly revolving posters. Many of the state exhibits reminded you that associations everywhere are successfully

● At the Congress publications booth ideas are in the air as well as on the printed page.

promoting the official P.T.A. magazine. **Maryland's** large map of the world was marked with pins and streamers to indicate the many places to which Maryland P.T.A.'s send the magazine as a gift; Australia, Iran, Japan, Nigeria, Paraguay are only a few of these distant ports of call.

Perhaps you were among the crowd that clustered around the *Congress Publications* booth to scan the useful booklets on sale there at special convention prices. Though there was particular interest in the recent publications—*Guiding Children as They Grow*, *Looking In on Your School*, and *Junior Hi-Ways*—many a visitor remarked that "The publications are all just wonderful. I get so much use out of every one of them!" Publications of both state and national congresses were displayed by **Texas**, **Virginia**, and other states as the underprops they use for programs.

The *Safety Committee's* booth featured the National Congress publication, *Signals for Safety*. Several states also stressed safety, among them **Colorado**, with its beautifully designed bulletin board covered with lively photographs.

Of course you were impressed, too, by the splendid photographs, full of action and "story," in the *Audio-Visual Services* exhibit. Visual aids are being put to work everywhere, as you noticed in the **Colorado** and **Ohio** exhibits as well as in many others.

What an outstanding collection of state congress publicity books the *Committee on Publicity* spread before you! Indeed the fine hand of publicity was everywhere—in programs, in projects, in record books bulging with newspaper clippings about P.T.A. achievements in



**Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Wyoming**, and other states.

The *Programs and Founders Day* exhibit centered around portraits of two delightful children. It also displayed a stimulating collection of Founders Day programs from all over the country. In the **Florida**, **North Carolina**, **North Dakota**, and in fact all the state booths, workbooks, publications, photographs, scrapbooks cascaded over tables and bulletin boards in a fresh, sparkling stream, symbolizing the wide interests and purposeful activities of the minds and hands that prepared them. **Alaska's** scrapbook was based on the theme of a totem pole. **Hawaii** presented drawings of Hawaiian scenes, many of them enhanced by delicate shellwork—all done by elementary school boys and girls to show us "The Fiftieth State as Our Children See It." **Idaho**, with its lively "In Tune with Our Times" poster, was one of several congresses that played up state conventions.

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## T, WISDOM, AND WORKABILITY

There seemed no end to the flow of brilliant and workable ideas. **Connecticut** featured a P.T.A.-provided tour of the town for new teachers. **South Dakota** "Put the Kettle On" with a child's stove loaded with pots and pans that presented P.T.A. concerns. Equally ingenious displays came from **Washington, West Virginia**, and other states. Several state congresses, mindful of the convention theme, centered their exhibits around home and family life. **New York** had an attractive diorama of a suburban back yard fitted with play equipment. This exhibit also struck a deeper note: An interesting chart showed young people's attitudes toward various phases of modern life.

Parent education was stressed in **California's** clever "Pattern for Parent Education," complete with shears and instruction sheet for preparation, layout, cutting, marking, pressing, and finishing parent education projects.

In many displays the P.T.A.'s long-range concern with the public schools is given timely emphasis. The **Massachusetts** display had a pinpointed map with streamers showing how "Looking on Your School" projects were carried out. Right up to the minute was **Washington's** poster on air-age education, and **Ohio** had an amusing row of wooden figures that marched across the scene toward a model schoolhouse. Other states that reported graphically on P.T.A. educational activities included **Arkansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island**.

Parent-teacher associations everywhere are helping to ease the teacher shortage by providing scholarships and loans to future teachers. **Illinois** sent pictures of all thirty-three of the one-thousand-dollar golden jubilee scholarship winners. **Alaska, Colorado, Indi-**

**ana, and Minnesota** were among the many other states that gave evidence of impressive work in this field.

Scholarships are not the only means by which Congress associations make fruitful contacts with colleges. **Minnesota** displayed a map of the state, with pins, streamers, and cards to show contacts established between P.T.A.'s and colleges within the state.

**New Hampshire** and several other congresses performed an educational service by passing along important information about their states. **Nebraska** brought the state and the parent-teacher association together in its exhibit on the history of National Congress work in Nebraska. **Georgia and North Carolina** displayed lovely photographs of state congress buildings.

## NATIONAL CONCERNS

● Some of the national committee exhibits have already been mentioned. The others were just as eye-catching. Flashing lights directed your attention to the exhibit of the *National Committee on Mental Health*, which was merged with that of the National Institute of Mental Health. And the *National Committee on Reading and Library Service* gave you a fascinating glimpse of "An Enchanted Childhood," consisting of old children's books loaned by the University of Denver School of Librarianship.

Then, let's not forget the display on National Life Membership, an enlarged page from the *National Parent-Teacher* showing our national president, Mrs. James C. Parker, presenting Mrs. Eisenhower with certificates of National Life Membership for herself and the President. Beside it was a list of "Newcomers to Our Roster of Quality People"—persons honored with National Life Memberships during the past year.

It would be fun to recall in detail the other interesting exhibits by national committees, but space permits only the briefest of references: *Pre-school Service*, with an array of National Congress publications in this field; *Juvenile Protection*, a catchy design of disks, each illustrating one way of protecting youth; *International Relations*, bright with flags and with fine photographs from all over the world; *High School Service*, which reminded you that "Bringing up a teenager is a serious business but not a grim one"; *Exceptional Child*, with publications issued by the National Congress and by other organizations; *Character and Spiritual Education*, with attractive drawings illustrating the many phases of this committee's work.

Intensely interesting too were the ex-

## The Problem of Pornography

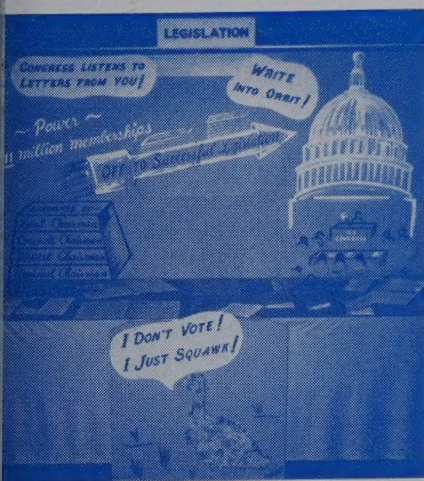
MANY A PARENT in recent months has been shocked to find that his child was receiving obscene pictures or other pornographic material through the mail. It isn't the child's fault. The purveyors of pornography get children's names by devious means and send samples of their filthy wares in the hope of getting the youngsters to order more. No child is psychologically mature enough to cope effectively with such an assault on his mind and morals.

But we parents and teachers, if properly informed, can cope with it. Here, then, is what you as a local president can do: First, urge all members to cooperate with the U.S. Post Office in its effort to put an end to the traffic in filth by turning over to the Postmaster General, or to their local postmaster, any indecent material that is mailed into their homes. Second, form an action committee in your P.T.A. to work on the problem of pornography and invite other interested community groups to cooperate on the analysis and solution of the problem.

These are recommendations of the National Congress special committee on comics, motion pictures, radio, and television—the committee that was given the assignment of studying the possible effects of pornography upon children and youth. Watch the *Bulletin* for further developments in the campaign to end the torrent of smut pouring in on children in all parts of the country. And be sure to let us know what success you have in combating this evil.

Be sure also to read "The New Black Plague—Pornography" in the September issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*. Subsequent issues will bring you progress reports from the state congresses and also the views of psychiatrists, sociologists, law-enforcement officers, and other experts whose counsel can help wipe out the vicious traffic in obscenity.

hibits of the invited organizations, but we have space only for the names of these cooperating groups: American Library Association, American National Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., National Education Association, The National Foundation, National Institute of Mental Health, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Office of Education, U.S. Public Health Service, and San Pan (World Health).



© Convention Photographers International

● The National Congress Committee on Legislation exhibit stresses action NOW.



**Y**OU KNOW by this time, I'm sure, that memberships in the National Congress totaled 11,516,905, as of April 15. *More than 11½ million memberships—all active memberships, I hope!* What a great caravan of volunteers, moving steadily along toward the goal of children's welfare! You have every right to feel proud of the important part you played in making this great growth possible by increasing memberships in your local unit.

Last year, no doubt, you missed many potential members: They were not at home when you or your committee members called; they were out of town; they wanted to consult the other half of the parent team; and so on. This year let's *call on all*. This means another opportunity to talk personally with every parent, every teacher, every interested relative, and every other community-minded person who cares about children and youth. As I told you last summer (and surely your own experience has borne this out), the number of members is important; the more your P.T.A. grows in active memberships, the more it will grow as a vital, constructive force in your community—and the more distance we can cover together in our march toward "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

### "Let's Call on All"

There's no substitute for personal contact if we are to reach every potential P.T.A. member. Here, then, are some of the people you will want to interest in P.T.A. memberships this year:

1. Parents with children in school (as well as the youngsters' aunts, uncles, and cousins)
2. Parents whose children are now out of school
3. Parents of preschool children
4. Persons who have no children but who are keenly interested in child welfare
5. Teachers in the school
6. Former teachers who continue to be concerned about children
7. Other educators not yet in the P.T.A.

### Getting a Good Start

● Since *you*, the membership chairman, are the one who strikes the spark, please sell yourself on the ideas that the P.T.A. is an important part of our lives and that the lifeblood of the P.T.A. is its memberships. If you believe thoroughly in parent-teacher work, you'll generate inspiration and enthusiasm that will flow out to your committee members and on to the persons they meet as they "call on all" to secure memberships.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- LOCAL PRESIDENTS
- LOCAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

(Both New and Continuing)

This Year *"Let's Call on All"*

● Decide on a goal. The number of new members you strive for will, no doubt, be agreed on by your committee.

● Work out some new or fresh ideas that will attract the attention of prospective members and retain present ones. For help with the ideas, *read* (and *study*):

**The materials you received from your predecessor, especially if this is your first year at the membership helm.**

**Your state chairman's plan of work.**

**The membership material in the new Parent-Teacher Manual. Suggest that your P.T.A. purchase reprints of this Manual section for your committee. (Each P.T.A. may obtain one reprint free from the state office.)**

**The National Parent-Teacher and the National Congress Bulletin. (Don't miss the national president's Membership Proclamation in the October magazine and the September Bulletin.)**

**The membership leaflets listed in this issue of the Bulletin.**

**Everything you can find on membership in your state congress bulletin and in other state publications.**

### Planning the Enrollment

**APPOINT** both men and women to your membership committee. Try to include the publicity chairman, the school principal or his representative, a teacher, the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine chairman, and the immediate past membership chairman.

**PROVIDE** committee members with copies of the membership leaflets and all other Congress publications relevant to membership, and discuss them at committee meetings. A well-informed committee is sure to be an enthusiastic committee.

**SUGGEST** that the P.T.A. budget \$1.50

● Membership increase last year: **498,749.**

● Let's march along **12,000,000 strong by April 15, 1960.**

for a membership committee subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*. Committee members who keep up to date on child guidance and parent and family life education find it easier to interest others in parent-teacher work. In fact, in many P.T.A.'s the membership and the magazine committees call on prospective P.T.A. members in teams. One team partner extends an invitation to membership. The other introduces the magazine with its wealth of material for individual and group learning.

**ADOPT** a snappy membership slogan—one that will make good publicity and will help to keep your membership alert.

**STUDY** the following topics with your committee, applying each one to your own local situation. Then, from your own experience and conviction, you'll be ready with information you need as you make your membership calls.

*Parents*—(1) What benefits they reap from their memberships in the P.T.A. (2) Why it's important to be a *participating member*. (3) What new parents should know about the values they and their children will derive from the P.T.A.

*School administrators and teachers*—(1) How P.T.A. membership helps their personal growth in service and understanding. (2) How the P.T.A. interprets the school's purposes and goals to the

**OUR GOAL: MORE THAN 12,000,000 MEMBERSHIPS BY APRIL 15, 1960**





From: Mrs. MILTON L. WIENER  
Membership Chairman

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

community. (3) What help the P.T.A. gives them with the children in their charge.

**Children and youth**—(1) How they benefit when their parents and teachers are P.T.A. members. (2) Why it's important for them to learn about the P.T.A. from their own parents and teachers. (3) How they can be encouraged to recognize the value of the P.T.A.

### To summarize:

1. Prepare suggestions and materials; get the committee to discuss them and to make additions or substitutions.
2. Tabulate the suggestions and materials decided upon and ready your plans for enrollment.
3. Act to acquire many, many new members and to reenroll present members. Begin early and continue through the year!

### Reminders for Chairmen

Remember, please, to say *membership enrollment*, not *membership drive*.

Remember that change is effective as you try each year to reach more and more parents and teachers. Add novel ideas. Bring into focus less known facts in P.T.A. accomplishments. Try a new emphasis.

Remember to appeal to the fathers—they are an important part of the

parent-teacher team. Invite them into *active membership*. (For *Men Only*, described on page 7, is just what the doctor ordered for this purpose.)

• Remember to observe state and national deadlines for reporting your membership figures, in order that your state may receive full credit for the year.

### Planning the Publicity

Publicity, along with the other membership activities, should start early and continue throughout the year, so work closely with your publicity chairman and your president. They can help you publicize membership enrollment both in and out of P.T.A. meetings.

Tell your members and tell the public about Membership Enrollment Month—before it begins and while it's going on. Make your membership figures known whenever you have a new and exciting total. The P.T.A. is *always* news!

Ask your publicity chairman, too, to emphasize what P.T.A. members are doing for your community, your school, and your children. There is drama in most P.T.A. projects that can be highlighted in timely and interesting ways.

Use every communication means, including radio and TV spot announcements. Let people in the community know what you're doing. Tell your story forcefully and enthusiastically. Tell it often and in many different ways.

### An All-Year Job

The work of the membership committee is never finished. Although the committee starts early in the summer to plan for the initial enrollment, it continues its enrolling activities throughout the school year.

Ask your president and your program chairman to let you speak briefly at every regular meeting. Prepare short "spot statements" ahead of time, changing the ideas and focus of interest for

### The Voice of the National Congress President

"Most parents join the P.T.A. because of a particular interest in a particular child, their own. They want him to do well in school, and they are eager to learn how they can help. This is good as far as it goes. But we think a P.T.A. member is someone who wants to do something in addition to his own job as a parent. . . .

"A person has truly become a P.T.A. member when his circle of concern stretches beyond his own child to include all children. A parent is truly a P.T.A. member when he wants for all children the good things he wants for his own. A P.T.A. member. . . has the capacity—the vision, the generosity, the will—to put the welfare of all children above his own vested interest as parent, teacher, homeowner, taxpayer, employer, worker, or member of a special group. His decisions are guided by a deep and abiding sense of responsibility for other people's children as well as his own. . . .

"We have faith that on the great issues of children's welfare and education P.T.A. members will rise above biases and personal interests to the level of their best selves. We are confident that their judgments will be made solely in terms of the well-being of all children."

—Mrs. James C. Parker, in the  
*National Parent-Teacher*, January 1959

each meeting. Remember to emphasize that it *pays* rather than *costs* to belong to the P.T.A.

### For All Children

One individual alone can accomplish little for the welfare of children and youth in our schools and communities. But when this one individual combines his strength with the strength of others—millions of P.T.A. members who work together through the National Congress of Parents and Teachers—his energies, skills, talents, imagination, and resources have a resistless power that can be felt around the world. Through his membership in the P.T.A. his strength becomes a great sustaining force for the good of all children.

### The Voice of the Membership

► An Illinois mother—"With my membership in the P.T.A. I feel that my children have gained a real sense of belonging, not only in the school but in the community as well. The P.T.A. always gives me much more than I can put into it."

► An Indiana father—"If you are a worker rather than a joiner, if your interest is in children  
(Continued on page 6)



• An attractive exhibit, arranged by the Lima (Ohio) Council in the local Horace Mann School last fall, shows "National Parent-Teacher" and other Congress publications as working partners in the membership enrollment crew.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(Continued)

rather than in yourself, and if your goal is understanding rather than criticism, I believe the P.T.A. will help you, as it has helped me, become a better father and more understanding of young people."

► An Ohio superintendent of schools—"Certain conditions in modern living, as we know, are not conducive to mental health. For example, every year since 1948 one of five Americans has moved. . . . What can P.T.A.'s do to help footloose families become an integral part of the community? Providing shoes and eyeglasses for the children is not enough. Are their parents being drawn into the P.T.A.? Since this organization is nation-wide, it can give families a sense of belonging, no matter where they are or how short their stay."

► A Delaware father—"It is my sincere conviction that the father who fails to take an active part in the P.T.A. is shirking a major obligation. The present period of challenge in education demands the positive efforts of every citizen. Too many men say 'Oh, I let my wife belong to the P.T.A.'"

► An Illinois principal—"Our P.T.A. means a better school for everyone concerned. As a principal-superintendent of a small school district, I find the P.T.A. a valuable ally of our school in helping promote a better program."

► An Indiana teacher—"I have taught in both kinds of situations [with and without a P.T.A.]. I prefer the school that has a cooperative P.T.A., where teachers and parents try to understand each other's problems and try to solve them at a common meeting place, the P.T.A."

► A Massachusetts mother—"Through my P.T.A. membership I am a part of the conscience of my community, my state, my America."

## Membership Clips

In making up our roster  
On membership today,  
We looked and looked and couldn't find  
Your name in P.T.A.  
We know it was an oversight,  
And neither sloth nor sin.  
Instead of being counted out  
We want you counted in!

—Tennessee Parent-Teacher

## "BE'S" ON MEMBERSHIP

- BE enthusiastic—it's contagious.
- BE informed—it pays to know your product.
- BE energetic—it gets results.
- BE friendly—it wins friends.
- BE sincere—it begets respect.
- BE faithful—it encourages others.

—Arkansas Parent-Teacher

## WORTH REPEATING

Let's stand abreast 12 million strong—  
Let's stand a dozen million strong  
When 1960 comes along.

Calling . . . Congress 1960,  
Extension number, 12 million!

In 1960 let us say  
"Twelve million now in P.T.A."



NEW  
ACTION  
PROGRAM  
AVAILABLE  
NOW

## Strengthen America's Homes Through Membership Enrollment

THE administration theme serves as title for a sparkling, brand-new booklet that outlines the Action Program. It takes a fresh, keen look at membership enrollment as a part of our great assignment, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

"By its very nature, P.T.A. work serves many of the needs of adults," the booklet reminds us. "It provides them, for example, with opportunities to perform useful service, thus increasing their sense of personal worth and usefulness. Through educational programs and study groups it helps them acquire knowledge and understanding that will improve their proficiency as parents, teachers, and citizens. It offers them the fellowship of like-minded people in sharing problems and working toward solutions. The more members it enrolls, the more opportunities it will have for service to the adult community."

*Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness* points the way to build a participating membership that will mean more and better action. State congresses will soon receive a free allotment that provides one copy for each P.T.A. Extra copies may be purchased for thirty cents each from the state office or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

## TWO REQUESTS TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS!

1. Please be sure to let your membership chairman see this issue of the "National Congress Bulletin."

2. During July or August you will receive a **Magazine Promotion Packet**. This packet is intended for the person responsible for taking subscriptions to our official magazine, "National Parent-Teacher."

The packet is coming to you because we make the stencil that brings you the "National Congress Bulletin" do double duty. Hence we must count on you to pass along the packet to your local magazine chairman.

## EMERGENCY ALERT TO P.T.A. LEADERS

● Plastic bags are potential death traps! The National Safety Council warned in May that as many as a hundred children may die in 1959 unless the public is thoroughly alerted to this new and peculiarly modern peril. It is a deceptively harmless-looking object—the tissue-thin plastic cover in which your coat comes back from the dry cleaner. One newspaper reported recently that plastic-bag asphyxiation has caused sixty-one child fatalities so far this year, the victims ranging in age from thirteen days to three years old. Thus the figure mentioned by the Council may even be an underestimation.

The Council urges the P.T.A. and like-minded organizations to cooperate in warning parents in their communities. Other suggestions by the Council: Send releases to local newspapers. Organize teams to relay information to welfare groups, to nursery, church, and play schools, and to baby sitters.

Here are the facts we should stress: The filmy plastic can cling tightly to the face of a helpless child and cut off his air intake. Bags made of this material should never serve as makeshift covers for mattresses, pillows, or blankets for cribs or carriages. Young children should not be permitted to play with the bags or to play in an area where they are accessible.

## COMING IN THE SEPTEMBER NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

**It's Time to Talk** by *Mildred C. Tempelin*, professor, Institute of Child Development and Welfare, University of Minnesota

**How Good Is Ability Grouping?** by *Martin Essex*, president of the American Association of School Administrators, and superintendent of schools, Akron, Ohio

**What Kind of Parents Will Today's Teen-agers Be?** by *Evelyn Millis Duval*, author and family life consultant

**Education and the Image of Man** by *Max Lerner*, professor of American civilization, Brandeis University

**The State of the Nation's Mental Health** by *Harold D. Lasswell*, professor of law and political science, Yale University

Also—such regular features as **Keeping Pace with the P.T.A.** and **Motion Picture Previews**, and a new service, evaluations of TV programs for children and families.



# NATIONAL CONGRESS LEAFLETS

## Aid Membership Enrollers

### Order Now!



AS YOU MAP OUT ideas and plans for this fall's membership enrollment, you'll want to avail yourself of the generous help and backing that National Congress membership leaflets and related publications offer you.

Keep a good assortment of these timely and attractive folders on hand. You and your committee members can put them to work in a variety of ways. For example, you can stimulate active interest in the P.T.A. by leaving leaflet reminders at homes as you "call on..." Other copies might be distributed to prospective members by mail. Then, members can pick up at P.T.A. meetings the leaflets they particularly want their friends and neighbors to have.

#### OUR NEW HELPER

The newest addition to the roster of membership leaflets is **For Men Only**, a four-page flyer that offers men a share in the most important business in the U.S.A."

Why are millions of men finding P.T.A. work a challenging, *man-size* job? Because," the leaflet explains, "the problems your P.T.A. is working on are *man-size problems*—problems that are interwoven with business, government, law, taxation, money income, and money outgo."

Here you will find a conclusive answer to a question that still pops up now and then, "Why should I go to P.T.A. meetings as long as my wife goes?"

#### ANSWERS FOR THEIR QUESTIONS

You'll get lots of questions from prospective members. Take heart—questions are a sign of interest. And Congress publications will give you most of the answers. For instance, when someone asks, "The P.T.A.—what is it, anyhow?" you can answer quickly and precisely if you're familiar with **The**

#### National Congress of Parents and Teachers: The P.T.A. in the Local Community.

This ten-page, illustrated pamphlet tells briefly the fascinating history of the P.T.A., explains how it is organized, and describes some of the things P.T.A.'s have done and are doing to promote the welfare of children and youth.

Here are some more sample questions and answers:

**Q. Why should I join the P.T.A.—what could I do?**

**A. You Belong in Our P.T.A.,** a four-page flyer, explains how a public-spirited citizen can improve his community by belonging to an organization that concentrates on the welfare and education of children and youth.

**Q. You have so many members now—why do you need me?**

**A. You Are Needed in Our P.T.A.** proves that each individual voice really counts in P.T.A. work, and shows why it is so important for the welfare of children and youth that grownups take concerted action in their behalf.

**Q. Is it really important for our P.T.A. to be a part of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers?**

**A. Why Our P.T.A. Is a Unit of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers** lists fifteen sound reasons why more than 45,000 P.T.A.'s pool their efforts, knowledge, and experience through the National Congress. Here is proof that bigger and better accomplishments are possible when P.T.A.'s unite in the "largest group in the world that serves both the family and the community."

**Q. Why should I keep up P.T.A. activities, now that my child's in high school?**

**A. Don't Be a Dropout Parent** explains that the teen-age child—despite his air of independence—still needs to know that his parents are interested in him and in his school. He has this assurance in full measure when his mother and father belong to the high school P.T.A.

**Q. What about ideals—just what does the P.T.A. stand for?**

**A. The Statement of Principles** explains the thinking that is the basis of National Congress action—action to assure to every child "an opportunity to live a full life, satisfying to himself and useful to his community."

**Q. A Spanish-speaking family recently moved into our neighborhood. How can I acquaint them with the P.T.A.?**

**A. Usted Debe Ser Miembro de Nuestra P.T.A.,** an illustrated Spanish version of *You Belong in Our P.T.A.*, tells the Spanish-speaking parent in his own language that he too, as a P.T.A. member, can help his children and all children.

**Q. Can the P.T.A. help us do a better job of rearing our own children?**

**A. To answer this question, give inquirers a copy of *All in a Child's Lifetime*, the announcement of the *National Parent-Teacher's* 1959-60 parent and family life education programs. The leaflet contains a warm invitation for parents to become members of P.T.A. study-discussion groups. (Space is provided for writing in the name of your unit.) As they study the list and the quick summaries of articles to appear in the pre-school, school-age, and adolescent courses, they'll see what big extra values they get for themselves and their children when they add group study to P.T.A. membership.**

**YOU CAN SEE** from these short previews what a big help Congress leaflets can be. You'll want to be fully primed before you go into high gear. So order now from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

#### PRICE LIST

**All in a Child's Lifetime—35 cents a hundred copies; \$3.00 a thousand.**

**Don't Be a Dropout Parent—50 cents a hundred copies; \$4.00 a thousand.**

**For Men Only—50 cents a hundred copies; \$4.00 a thousand.**

**The National Congress of Parents and Teachers: The P.T.A. in the Local Community—8 cents each; \$1.50 for 25.**

**National Congress of Parents and Teachers—Statement of Principles—40 cents a hundred copies; \$3.00 a thousand.**

**Usted Debe Ser Miembro de Nuestra P.T.A.—40 cents a hundred copies; \$3.00 a thousand.**

**Why Our P.T.A. Is a Unit of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers—50 cents a hundred copies; \$4.00 a thousand.**

**You Are Needed in Our P.T.A.—40 cents a hundred copies; \$3.00 a thousand.**

**You Belong in Our P.T.A.—30 cents a hundred copies; \$2.50 a thousand.**



# P.T.A. BULLETIN BOARD

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S



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• A line-up of leaders at the third annual workshop of educational organizations, held in Washington, D. C., April 28-30: (from left) Henry Toy, Jr., president of the National Citizens Council for Better Schools; Lawrence G. Derthick, U.S. Commissioner of Education; Ruth Stout, then president of the National Education Association; Robert Willis, president, National School Boards Association; Martin Essex, president of the American Association of School Administrators; Mrs. James C. Parker, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers; and A. John Holden, Vermont Commissioner of Education and vice-president of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

• **TO GIVE ITS POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP** of 4,000 opportunity to voice questions and discuss interests and issues in education, the Catalina High School P.T.A. (Tucson, Arizona) held four forums during the year. Each forum consisted of three simultaneous meetings—on family living, on curriculum, and on school financing and taxes. Each meeting opened with a speaker or a panel discussion, which led into the question-and-answer period that followed.

• **“LAWS CHILDREN OUGHT TO LEARN”** (title of a March 1959 *National Parent-Teacher* article) was the subject of a panel discussion presented at a meeting of the Chestnut School P.T.A., North Olmsted, Ohio. Participating in the panel were the assistant school superintendent, the chief of police, a lawyer, a fifth-grade teacher, a parent, and the unit's juvenile protection and safety chairman. The association extended an invitation to members of several other units in the area to attend this meeting.

• **FOR THE TENTH RECORD YEAR** both parents of every family represented in the Roosevelt School, Minot, North Dakota, and all the teachers are enrolled in the school's P.T.A. Membership for 1958-59 totals 475.

• **A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE** was sponsored by the Palmetto (Florida) P.T.S.A. last summer and supported by local service and civic clubs, to “make play days paydays” for high school students. To see that as many suitable jobs as possible were available, P.T.S.A. members personally called on merchants and members of the Palmetto Chamber of Commerce. Parents were asked to sign students' work applications and to signify that they would cooperate in every way possible to make the work experience worthwhile.

• **WORKSHOPS AT THE SPRING CONFERENCE** of Texas' fourteenth district were based on *Looking In on Your School*, the National Congress' guide for P.T.A. fact finders.

• **GROUP RELATIONS ACTIVITIES** are being emphasized by many state congresses, reports Mrs. Cecil S. Garey, national chairman of the special committee on group relations. As evidence, Mrs. Garey cites a number of articles in state bulletins on the promotion of brotherhood through observance of Brotherhood Week and Human Rights Day, and action on behalf of migrant workers.

## ✓ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

**National Farm Safety Week**, July 19-25. Sponsored jointly by the National Safety Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Citizenship Day**, September 17. Anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution.

**1960 National Congress Convention**, May 22-25, Philadelphia.